

Message Text

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ACTION OIC-02

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P 081136Z MAR 75

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0885

UNCLAS MBFR VIENNA 0092

FOR MURRAY JACKSON, IO/OIC FROM AMBASSADOR RESOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, MBFR

SUBJECT: QUARTERS ALLOWANCE MBFR

REFS: A. MBFR VIENNA 0359, 10/29/74; B. STATE 238469,
10/30/74; C. MBFR OM 11/24/74; D. MBFR OM 11/20/74

1. THE DELEGATION HAS OUR PERSONNEL FOR WHO NO GOVERNMENT HOUSING IS AVAILABLE HERE AND WHO ARE CONSEQUENTLY OBLIGED TO RENT PRIVATE HOUSING. IN EACH CASE HOUSING COSTS EXCEED THEIR AUTHORIZED HOUSING ALLOWANCE BY OVER 20 PERCENT, I.E., JOHN V. WEIRICK, FSRU-5, 26.9 PERCENT; FRANCES CHIOTIS, FSSO-5, 25 PERCENT; OLAF GROBEL, FSO-3, 20.5 PERCENT; AND JOHN F. FILAKOVSKY, FSSO-6, 20.5 PERCENT.

2. FEBRUARY 1975 RESUBMISSIONS OF SF-1190'S SHOW THE FOLLOWING BREAKDOWN:

A. JOHN WEIRICK, FSRU-5
GROUP 3, AUTHORIZED ALLOWANCE \$7800 PER YEAR
HOUSING COSTS: \$9900

B. FRANCES CHIOTIS, FSSO-5
GROUP 3, AUTHORIZED ALLOWANCE \$7600
HOUSING COSTS: \$9500

C. OLAF GROBEL, FSO-3
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GROUP 2, AUTHORIZED ALLOWANCE \$9,100 PER YEAR

HOUSING COSTS: 10,969

D. JOHN FILAKOVSKY, FSSO-6

GROUP 4, AUTHORIZED ALLOWANCE \$5,000 PER YEAR

HOUSING COSTS: \$6,025 (INCLUDES SPECIAL ALLOWANCE GRANTED)

3. EVEN LOWER RENTAL PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION IN VIENNA IS VERY EXPENSIVE IN COMPARISON WITH WASHINGTON. THE PRIVATE HOUSING OCCUPIED BY THE PERSONS LISTED IS NO BETTER THAN GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR -LEASED HOUSING OCCUPIED BY PERSONNEL IN THESE GRADES.

4. INCREASED HOUSING COSTS HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY (A) CONTINUAL DOWNWARD MOVEMENT OF THE DOLLAR; EXCHANGE RATE 2/24/75 WAS AUSTRIAN SCHILLING 16.36 TO THE DOLLAR AS COMPARED WITH AS 18 TO THE DOLLAR IN NOVEMBER SF-1190; (B) RENT INCREASES BASED ON THE NEW VIENNESE COST OF LIVING INDEX; (B) 8 PERCENT VALUE ADDED TAX ON INCREASED BASIC RENT REQUIRED TO BE PAID BY EMPLOYEE; AND (D) APPROXIMATE 10 PERCENT INCREASE IN UTILITIES COST. ALL HAVE MADE THE SITUATION MORE ACUTE THAN AT ANY TIME LAST YEAR OR, FOR THAT MATTER, THE FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THIS YEAR.

5. THEREFORE, WE REQUEST THE FOLLOWING ACTION BE TAKEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

A. THAT DEPARTMENT URGENTLY RECONSIDER WHETHER WE CAN HAVE GOVERNMENT LEASING FOR HOUSING MBFR EMPLOYEES OR;

B. AS A DISTINCTLY SECOND BEST SOLUTION THAT THE EMPLOYEES CONCERNED BE AUTHORIZED SPECIAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR THE FULL AMOUNTS OF THEIR LOSS (I.E.N WEIRICK-\$2,100; GROBEL-\$1,869; CHIOTIS-1,900; AND FILAKOVSKY-1,025 AS COMPUTED IN FEBRUARY 1975.

6. IT IS ALSO REQUESTED THAT MISS CHIOTIS' AND MR. FILAKOVSKY'S SPECIAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE BE ADJUSTED RETROACTIVELY FROM NOVEMBER 1, 1974, TO FEBRUARY 8, UNCLASSIFIED

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1975, AND FROM NOVEMBER 15, 1974 TO FEBRUARY 8, 1975 RESPECTIVELY, TO GIVE THEM THE FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR THAT PERIOD.

A. WE ORIGINALLY REQUESTED SPECIAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR FRANCES CHIOTIS BASED ON AN OVERAGE OF \$1493 AND FOR JOHN FILAKOVSKY BASED ON AN AVERAGE OF \$1749 (REF C AND D).

B. DEPARTMENT APPROVED A SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR JOHN FILAKOVSKY, RETROACTIVE TO 11/15/74, FOR \$1400. THE SF-1190 FOR MR. FILAKOVSKY SHOWED HOUSING COSTS OF \$5,359 OR 1,759 OVER THE AUTHORIZED ALLOWANCE OF \$3,600. THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCE OF \$1400 COVERED 79.5 PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT HE IS REQUIRED TO SPEND OVER HIS ALLOWANCE.

C. THE SF-1190 FOR FRANCES CHIOTIS SUBMITTED BY OUR OM OF 11/14/74 SHOWED HOUSING COSTS OF \$8,293. THIS AMOUNT WAS \$1,493 OVER THE AUTHORIZED ALLOWANCE OF \$6,800. THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCE GRANTED TO MISS CHIOTIS, RETROACTIVE TO 11/74, WAS FOR \$800 OR \$693 LESS THAN HER ACTUAL HOUSING COST. THE \$800 GRANTED REPRESENTS ONLY 53.5 PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT SHE IS REQUIRED TO SPEND OVER HER ALLOWANCE.

7. COMPLETED SF-1190'S BEING SENT TO IO/OIC UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

8. WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK DEPARTMENT'S BEST HELP IN SOLVING THIS PROBLEM WHICH IS CAUSING REAL HARDSHIP FOR FOUR VERY VALUABLE PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED PERSONNEL. RESOR

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